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American Indians in U.S. History

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American Indians in U.S. History, by Roger L. Nichols. The Civilization of the American Indian Series, vol. 248. Second edition. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. xxiv, 191 pp. Illustrations, maps, chronology, suggested readings, index. \$24.95 paperback.

Reviewer Donald L. Parman is retired from Purdue University. He is the author of *Indians and the American West in the Twentieth Century* (1994).

This book, concisely covering the history of American Indians from pre-history to the present, was first published in 2003. (I reviewed it in the Spring 2004 issue of this journal.) For this second edition, the author has retained the earlier chapter structure while promising to put greater stress on Indians' social and cultural issues and to correct factual errors and omissions. One new feature of the second edition is the addition of six biographical sketches of notable Indians: Molly Brant, Sequoyah (George, Giss, or Guess), Sara Winnemucca, Carlos Montezuma (Wac-caja), Alice Lee Jamison, and Ada Deere.

Comparing the texts of the two editions reveals mostly minor changes, such as different word choices and occasionally adding new sentences. In dealing with the Spanish in Florida, Nichols wrote a paragraph covering events after the De Soto expedition. He made numerous changes in the chapter covering the period from 1970 to the present, discussing several topics that have been resolved since 2003 and summarizing new issues that have arisen in more recent times.

What has not changed in the new edition is the author's goal of writing for nonspecialists. He does not provide footnotes or a bibliography but does offer a list of suggested readings at the end of each chapter. The book remains an excellent introduction to Indian history.

Creating the American West: Boundaries and Borderlands, by Derek R. Everett. Norman: University of Oklahoma Press, 2014. xvi, 302 pp. Illustrations, maps, notes, appendix, bibliography, index. \$29.95 hardcover.

Reviewer William E. Lass is professor emeritus of history at Minnesota State University, Mankato. He is the author of *Shaping the North Star State: A History of Minnesota's Boundaries* (2014).

Anyone seeing only the title of this book could easily make some mistaken assumptions about its nature. "American West" can and does mean different things to different people. The West considered by Everett is the trans-Mississippi West, so for the purposes of this study Iowans are westerners. Furthermore, many would-be readers might assume that the book deals with all state boundaries in the region west of the Mississippi River. Instead, Everett devotes six of his eight chapters to specific boundaries — western Arkansas, Missouri-Iowa, Oregon-